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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 MANAMA 000278

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR EB/CBA: DWINSTEAD, EB/EX, NEA/ARP: PHEFFERNAN

CAIRO FOR STEVE BONDY

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [BEXP](#) [BTIO](#) [EINV](#) [ETRD](#) [ABUD](#) [BA](#)

SUBJECT: MANAMA'S REQUEST FOR FY04 BFIF FUNDING

REF: STATE 242589, 03 STATE 335536

1. SUMMARY: Manama requests USD 7000 in funding from the FY04 Business Facilitation Incentive Fund (BFIF) to establish and equip a resource center for a new chapter of the American Chamber of Commerce in Bahrain. END SUMMARY.

2. BACKGROUND: In FY03, BFIF supported AmCham Bahrain formation by funding visits from AmCham Cairo representatives to Bahrain to discuss the purpose and importance of an AmCham for the U.S. business community to reinforce and coalesce increase interest in the formation of an AmCham in Bahrain. Later, BFIF funded U.S. Chamber of Commerce's John Howard's travel to Bahrain to work with a core AmCham formation committee on by-laws and a business plan for the group. In consultation with John Howard, these documents have been revised. The formation committee is now preparing translations of their by-laws and business plan to present to the Government of Bahrain. Positive meetings with the GOB, including those with the AmCham delegation from Cairo as well as with John Howard, lead us to believe that GOB accreditation will be unproblematic. The formation committee anticipates presenting its credentials to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce this spring, and to be up and running soon thereafter.

3. With bilateral Free Trade Agreement negotiations underway, U.S. business interest in Bahrain and Bahraini business interest in the U.S. has increased. The seriousness of this interest is substantiated by requests for International Company Profiles (ICPs) and Gold Key Service not seen in previous years at this embassy. A bilateral Free Trade Agreement should push this trend. The new AmCham could augment Embassy matchmaking efforts through its own programs.

4. Post requests funding to establish and equip an American Chamber of Commerce Resource Center in Bahrain. The information-age Center could be a nexus for up-to-date matchmaking information searches, market research and industrial trends on a local and global level. To assure that the AmCham is able to provide added value through current information beyond what is readily available to the average internet user, we are requesting an internet-ready laptop computer and printer together with subscriptions to online searchable data services. These resources will give the members and visitors access to active tenders and project details in addition to commercial and economic news in the local, regional and global market. The laptop, together with an all-in-one printer/scanner/fax machine and a projector can serve double duty, as AmCham office equipment to prepare brochures and invitations, and to make presentations designed to drive and inform membership. We anticipate that these resources will contribute to making the AmCham Resource Center a destination for the business community in Bahrain.

Specific Resource Requests:

Hardware:

HP Pavilion ze45100M-B Laptop/ OfficeJet5510 Printer Bundle
Estimated Cost: USD 1,349.98
Source: Officemax.com
Website: www.officemax.com
Brief Description:

Computer: HP Pavilion ZE45100M-B Notebook PC
Features:

Processor: Intelr Celeron processor 2.4GHz
Memory: 512MB, expandable to 1024MB
Graphics: ATI Mobility Radeon 4X AGP, 3D architecture
Video Memory: 64MB
Hard Drive: 40GB enhanced IDE drive
Multimedia Drive: DVD-ROM/CD-RW combo
Display: 15" XGA TFT (1024x768)
Ethernet: Integrated 10/100Base-T Ethernet LAN
(RJ-45 connector)

Modem: Integrated V.90/V.92 56KB modem
Audio: 16-bit Sound Blaster Pro-compatible audio;
Altec Lansing internal speakers
Pointing Device: Touch Pad with On/Off button
and dedicated Scroll Up/Down pad
Dimensions: 12.96"x10.72"x1.62"
Weight: 7.25 lbs.
Bundled printer: HP PSC 2175 All-In-One Machine

Printer/scanner/fax: HP OfficeJet5510 4-In-One Flatbed
Features:

Print speed: 17 ppm black, 12 ppm color
Copy speed: 17 ppm black, 12 ppm color
Resolution: print up to 4800-optimized dpi color
and laser-quality black text
Scanning: Up to 600 x 2400 dpi optical resolution
and 36-bit color
Connectivity: USB ADF allows you to fax, scan or copy
up to 20 pages while you attend to other matters
Duty cycle: 1,000 pages per month
Operating systems: Windows 98, 98 SE, ME, 2000
Professional, XP, Mac OS 9.1, OS X1
Year limited warranty

Printer Cable: Belkin USB Gold Cable

Estimated Cost: \$ 30

Source: Officemax.com

Website: www.officemax.com

Projector:

HP Digital Projector SB21

Estimated cost: \$1,699

Source: Officemax.com

Website: www.officemax.com

Features:

1,000 comparable lumens.
True SVGA (800 x 600 dpi) resolution.
1800:1 contrast ratio.
7.9" x 5.5" x 2.3" 2.2 lbs.
Wireless remote control with mouse functions
and laser pointer.

Online reference resources:

Dun and Bradstreet company information

Estimated Cost: USD 675.00 (one hundred reports at

USD 6.75 each--valid for one year

Source: Rime--a correspondent of Dun and Bradstreet

P.O. Box 54579

Office No. 11, Bldg 173, Road 327, Block 308

Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain

Tel: (973) 251150 / 251141

Fax: (973) 232994 / 231051

Brief description: Provides comprehensive company
analysis including credit history, marketing
strategies and purchasing decisions.

Trade Arabia

Estimated Cost: USD 400

Source: Al Hilal Publishing & Marketing Group

P.O. Box 224 Manama, Bahrain

Tel: 293131

Website: www.tradearabia.com

Brief description: Lists all active tenders, project
details, project news including breaking news and news
archives from all Arab and G.C.C. countries

Gulf Construction

Estimated cost: USD 95 per year (12 issues)

Source: Al Hilal Publishing & Marketing Group

P.O. Box 224 Manama, Bahrain

Tel: 293131

Website: www.gulfconstruction.com

Brief description: Current and archived news about the
construction sector

Gulf Industry Manufacturing and Trading (GI)

Estimated cost: USD 55.00 for two years

Source: Al Hilal Publishing & Marketing Group

P.O. Box 224 Manama, Bahrain

Website: www.gulfindustryonline.com

Tel: 293131

Brief description: Industrialists, factory managers and
purchasing managers, government departments of trade
and industry, major distributors of industrial
products, Chambers of Commerce and embassies
internationally.

BMI Monthly Monitors: Middle East Monitor - The Gulf

Estimated cost: USD 490.000

Source: Business Monitor International

Tel: 866-275-3266 or +1-610-235-5299

Website: http://www.economy.com/store/

Brief description: Monthly updates on major political,
economic and financial developments in emerging markets

worldwide. Systematic, country-by-country analyses of recent and likely changes in political risk, economic performance and prospects, industrial activity, finance and the business environment.

Oil and Gas News Worldwide-weekly updates

Estimated cost: USD 695

Source: Al Hilal Publishing & Marketing Group

PO Box 224 Manama Bahrain

Tel: 293131

Website: www.oilandgasnewsworldwide.com

Brief description: News and views, comment, analysis, contracts, advance warning of tenders, pipeline projects, technology, market analysis, oil stock prices and futures, explorations and gas technology including senior personnel in oil companies, drilling and exploration contractors, technical supply and services, surveyors and consultants, marine and offshore service suppliers and government agencies.

Prcis State

Estimated Cost: USD 600.00

Annual subscription includes current report and two updates.

Source: Economy.com

Tel: 866-275-3266 or +1-610-235-5299

Website: www.economy.com

Description: Concise yet comprehensive research on the current and expected economic conditions of the fifty U.S. states plus the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Five-year forecasts of gross state product, employment, income, population, housing activity, migration flows, vehicle registrations, and personal bankruptcies, recent economic performance and short- and long-term outlooks.

The Dismal Scientist

Estimated cost: USD 495

Source: Economy.com

Tel: 866-275-3266 or +1-610-235-5299

Website: <http://www.economy.com/dismal/>

Brief Description: Daily coverage of the macroeconomic, industry, financial, and regional trends that affect business and investment, including analysis, special reports, and proprietary tools. Real-time economic indicator coverage of over 180 economic indicators for 40 countries, the Euro Zone, and the OECD.

15. TOTAL ESTIMATED COST FOR ESTABLISHING AND EQUIPPING AN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RESOURCE CENTER: USD 6585, plus shipping charges.

16. Post appreciates the opportunity to apply for BFIF funding and thanks EB in advance for giving our proposal your fullest consideration.

FORD